

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 21, 2009

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:32 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:19 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Mike Speedy, Chair

Paul Bateman

Susie Day

Maggie Lewis

ABSENT

Ben Hunter

Doris Minton-McNeill

Kent Smith

AGENDA

Presentation on the Mayor's Front Porch Alliance – Douglas Hairston, Director

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. Chair Mike Speedy called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with the following members present: Susie Day and Maggie Lewis. Absent were Ben Hunter, Doris Minton-McNeill and Kent Smith. Arriving shortly thereafter was Paul Bateman.

Presentation on Mayor's Front Porch Alliance - Douglas Hairston, Director

Mr. Hairston stated that he has worked with non-profit organizations for the last seven years. He said that his educational background is in electronic engineering. Mr. Hairston stated that the main focus of the Front Porch Alliance is working with Faith Based and Community Organizations (FBCO) that serve the population in Marion County.

Mr. Hairston distributed a handout detailing the purpose of the Front Porch Alliance, which is attached as Exhibit A. Some of the details were:

Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI)

- National OFBCI includes staff in all of the umbrella departments:
 - Department of Labor
 - Health and Human Services
 - Department of Education
 - Access to Recovery (ATR)
- State OFBCI covers the whole state.

Mr. Hairston stated that with ATR, federal funds from the state allow an organization to be compensated for some of the work that they do in regards to helping an individual who may have an addiction, is a single parent, is entering the workforce or is returning from being incarcerated.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Bateman arrived at 5:41 p.m.}

Councillor Lewis asked how the Front Porch Alliance is working directly with ATR. Mr. Hairston stated that they are not working directly with ATR as much as with the state in generally. He said that he works with ATR's coordinator directly as organizations call upon them.

Mr. Hairston continued with his presentation, stating that the mission of the Front Porch Alliance is to encourage the full energy of the City of Indianapolis to enhance the community building work of Faith Based and Community Organizations. He said that these organizations are designed to support families, provide activities for children and strengthen community renewal, while improving the quality of life.

Councillor Bateman asked if FBCO is a referral and information service that connects different operations together. Mr. Hairston answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Hairston stated that in October, 2008, the Church of Acts hosted a training seminar that was a great opportunity to network different individuals together, as well as provide them with media access. Chair Speedy asked if the Front Porch Alliance plays an instrumental role in that particular event. Mr. Hairston answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Hairston discussed the goals and services of the FBCOs:

- Educate the community and the administration
 - Understand the good work that is already happening in the community
 - Understanding the needs of the community
 - Being proactive in speaking to FBCOs about their goals
- Connect the community to the resources
 - Make the personal connection that inspires trust and cooperation
 - Connect community partners to helpful information
 - Connect individuals to resources in and around their communities
- Enhance the community opportunities
 - Mayor's office can herald the work of our FBCOs
 - Encourage public or private support on behalf of the community
 - Provide technical assistance that allows our neighborhood programs access to increase their capacity

Mr. Hairston stated that in 2008, the Front Porch Alliance met one-on-one with 81 FBCOs to help them understand how they can work together. He said that they have led seminars and sessions with over 225 FBCO leaders on funding and city programs and have created a mentor training program for the Mayor's Re-Entry Pilot Program. Mr. Hairston stated that he has developed an interactive database that looks at FBCOs by service, capacity, and neighborhoods and identifies areas that can be partnered with each.

Mr. Hairston discussed the 2009 Key Elements of the Front Poarch Alliance. Some of those elements were:

- Designation of the Religious Institution Application (RIA)
- City owns and programmed RIA from the start
- RIA has the flexibility to add or change fields or data collected
- RIA can feed a public accessible website
- RIA can be programmed to create various reports for different departments

Mr. Hairston stated that the information in the database was retrieved from the yellow pages. Chair Speedy asked is the database defines the type of organization that receives funding. Mr. Hairston stated that he is trying to put that together, and it should be available within the coming months. Councillor Bateman asked if the public will have access to the database. Mr. Hairston answered in the affirmative, stating that basic services will be public.

Mr. Hairston discussed the initiatives for 2009. Some of those were:

- Interactive website
- Monthly newsletter
- Public Safety – develop a one-year emergency preparedness plan that includes the FBCOs
- Encourage more community and faith walks
- Have more Friday Night Safe Haven's for youth
- Adopt-a-block
- Re-Entry program
- Increase the access to funding for FBCOs by educating them about available funding and partnerships

Chair Speedy asked if Mr. Hairston could explain what Friday Night Safe Haven is. Mr. Hairston stated that it is basically a hangout spot for kids. He said that there are programs in progress with different organizations that supply kids with a safe place to go that provides activities and keeps them off of the streets.

Councillor Bateman asked how someone could access the abandoned houses. Mr. Hairston stated that a person should work with the Land Bank directly or purchase a home at the tax sale and refurbish it. He said that after the tax sale, there is an opportunity for someone to purchase an abandoned home at a reduced rate from the Land Bank.

Chair Speedy asked if the Front Porch Alliance has a website. Mr. Hairston answered in the affirmative, stating that they are working on adding some things to it. Chair Speedy asked if Front Porch encourages potential FBCOs to contact them to get an idea on how to start increasing their capacity. Mr. Hairston stated that any non-profit or faith-based organization that is interested in working in Marion County should contact them.

Chair Speedy thanked Mr. Hairston for his presentation and said he is looking forward to hearing from him again.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

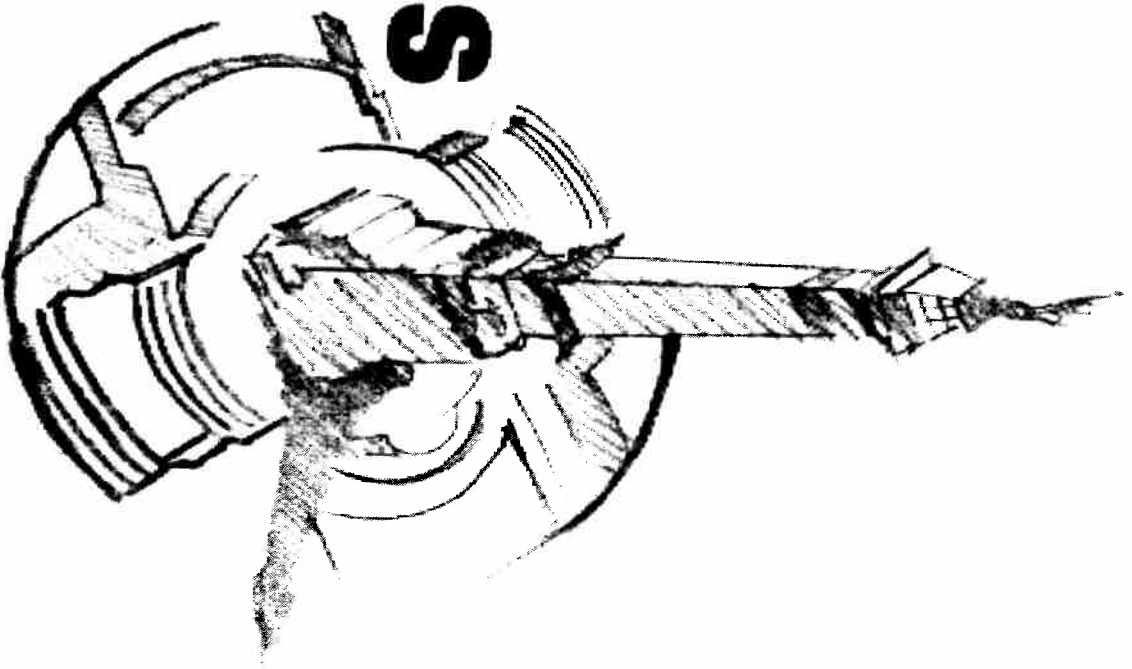
Mike Speedy, Chair
Community Affairs Committee

MS/law

City of **Indianapolis**

Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

Mayor's Office of the
Front Porch Alliance
Douglas S. Hairston



Front Porch Alliance

Working With Marion County's Faith Based & Community Organizations (FBCOs)

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A Little History

- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States (1791)
- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
- The first ten amendments comprise the Bill of Rights. **The first amendment protects religious freedom by prohibiting the establishment of an official or exclusive church or sect.** Free speech and free press are protected, although they can be limited for reasons of defamation, obscenity, and certain forms of state censorship, especially during wartime. The freedom of assembly and petition also covers marching, picketing and pamphleteering.

Source: *The Unite States Senate*

http://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm

Separation of Church and State

- The phrase *separation of church and state* is generally traced to a letter written by Thomas Jefferson in 1802 to the Danbury Baptists, in which he referred to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as creating a "wall of separation" between church and state. The phrase was then quoted by the United States Supreme Court first in 1878, and then in a series of cases starting in 1947. This led to increased popular and political discussion of the concept.

Thomas Jefferson Jan. 1. 1802.

- **Source:** *The United States Library of Congress*
- [http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9806/danpost.html](http://www.loc/loc/lcib/9806/danpost.html)

Charitable Choice

- "Charitable Choice" is the general name for several laws that President Clinton signed into law during the period of 1996-2000. These laws were designed to give people in need, choices among the charities offering them services within 4 programs:

1. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
2. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) programs (both overseen
3. Programs for substance abuse and mental health
4. Welfare-to-Work program (overseen by the Department of Labor).

Source:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/guidance/charitable.html>

Office of Faith Base & Community Initiatives

National OFBCI includes staff in all of the
Umbrella Departments: DOL, HHS, HUD,
Dept of Education, ATR, ect...

- New President may change focus

State OFBCI – Cover the whole state as
their main focus. We connect FBCCOs to
them as often as we can.

Mission

Encourage the full energy of the City of Indianapolis to enhance the community building work of Faith Based & Community Organization. These organizations are uniquely designed to support families, provide activities for children and strengthen community renewal while improving the quality of life in our city.

Faith Based & Community Organizations (FBCOs)

- Faith Based
 - Places of Worship
 - Organizations that are rooted or profess a faith designation as part of their name or service delivery.
- Community Initiative
 - An Organization that does not profess a faith preference in their name or service delivery.

Services

- **Educate** – Community and Administration
- **Connect** – Community to Resources
- **Enhance** – Community's Opportunities

Educate

- Internal
 - Understand the good work that is already happening in the community
 - Understand the needs of community by listening
- External
 - Be proactive in speaking to FBCOs about their goals
 - Respond by being straight with them on what we can and can not do to help them as well as services or resources that are available

Connect

- Make the personal connection that inspires trust and cooperation
- Connect our community partners to helpful information about government
- Connect them to the right person to move them toward the result that
- Connect them to resources in and around their communities

Enhance

- Mayor's Office can herald the work of our FBCOs
- Encourage public or private support for the work that is being done on the behalf of the community
- Provide the Technical Assistance that allows our Neighborhood programs or organization access the expertise increase their capacity

Educate 2008

- Met 1 on 1 with 81 + FBCOs to help them understand how we can work together
 - 15 Housing organization
 - 6 Senior support organizations
 - 32 Youth servicing agency
 - 8 Health Serving organizations
 - 5 Food serving organizations
 - 3 Educational programs
 - 12 community Centers

Educate 2008

- Lead 2 seminar sessions with 225 FBCOs leaders on funding and city programs
 - Planning quarterly Marion County focused seminars for 2009
 - Will still participate in other seminars organized by FBCOs
- Created a Mentor Training for the Mayor's Re-entry Pilot Initiative that can be duplicated around the city

Connect 2008

- Developing interactive database that looks at FBCOs by service, capacity, neighborhoods and identifies areas that we can partner with them or help them find partners
- Continue to convene FBCOs with similar missions to partner them together
 - We were able to get Church of Acts to work with Second Baptist
 - 7 Food servicing organizations to connect with new sources of support
- Strengthen Faith and Neighborhood relationship by encouraging them to work together using Greater Indianapolis Neighborhood Initiative (GINI) and other neighborhood plans that have been created.
- Connecting FBCOs to the right city department staff at the right time
- Setting up 10 More Employment Service Access sites in collaboration with Indianapolis Private Industry Council

Enhancements 2008

- The above activities help build relationships, network and capacity for FBCOs
- Assisted 4 organizations to get more people to their Peace Rallies by expanding their network
- Helped 35 Marion County Organizations connect to the States Access To Recovery Program to help them receive compensation for services they provide to the community
 - 26 of them are now certified as Service Providers or Care Coordinators

Database – 2009 Key Element

- Religious Institution Application, RIA Database is 1 year old.
- Was designed for faith organizations
- It had no designation for community organization
- It only had 800 contacts
- We have expanded it to 1358 contacts

Data Base Design

- The RAI Data Base has a good start
 - City owns it and programmed it from the start
 - RAI has the flexibility to add or change fields or data collected
 - RAI can feed a public accessible website
 - RAI can be programmed to create various reports for different departments
 - Can be modified to track FPA response to request for the FBCOs

Data Base Fields

Organization				
Denomination				
Address				
Phone/Fax				
Email				
Leader & Title				
Non-profit Status	501c3	Church	Registered Non-Profit	
Year of last Audit	Audit	990		
Year established				
State ATR	Service Provider	Service Coordinator	Both	
Area of City Served				
Services Provided	Days/Hrs of Operation	Capacity per month	Criteria for Service	Years Established
Membership Affiliations				
Key Community Partners				
City Government Partner	Parks	IMPD	Health Department	IPIC 19

City Initiatives Identified To Partner With for 2009:

- Interactive Website
- Monthly Newsletter
- Public Safety – Develop a 1 year Emergency Preparedness Plan that includes the FBCOs
- Public Safety – Expand Chaplaincy programs to include more active and diverse groups engaged at the street level
- Encourage more community and faith walks
- Friday Night Safe Haven's For Youth

Other Initiative 2009

- Adopt-a-Block – Work with FBCOs to partner with KIB and the Neighborhoods that need help
- Re-entry – Work with our internal program and encourage other FBCOs to work with the population
- Housing – We are looking for ways to reduce abandoned homes by working with FBCOs

Other Initiative 2009

- IPIC – Expand their Access Point Program to include organizations that they may have not partnered with before
- Conduct or participate in quarterly community trainings or seminars
- Increase the access to funding for FBCOs through educating them about fund availability and possible partnerships on grants

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